

Shildon and East Thickley
Urban District Council.

REPORT


FOR THE YEAR 1900,

BY

S. FIELDEN,

M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.O.H.,

Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30084076>

Shildon and East Thickley Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

My Report for 1900 is as follows :—

The population of the District at Mid-year was estimated to be 12,250.

Birth Rate.

During the year 353 Births (186 Males and 167 Females) were registered in the District ; equal to a rate of 28·8 per 1000 of population against 31·9 in 1899 and 31·4 in 1898.

Death Rate.

The number of Deaths registered was 188 (89 males and 99 females.)

The total Deaths were corrected by including 6 which occurred in Public Institutions, of persons belonging to this district, and excluding 2 of non-residents who died in the district.

This represents a rate of 15·3 per 1000 of population.

The deaths under 1 year numbered 55, equal to a rate of 4·48 per 1000 of population, and of 155 per 1000 births registered.

18 deaths were referred to the principal Zymotic Diseases, and were equal to a rate of 1·47 per 1000 of population, against 2·16 in 1899, and 2·9 in 1898.

PHTHISIS caused 11 deaths (including one which took place at Sedgefield Asylum,) equal to a rate of 0·89 per 1000 of population, against 1 in 1899, and 1·41 in 1898.

The deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy numbered 26, equal to a rate of 2·12 per 1000 of population, against 1·75 in 1899, and 1·23 in 1898.

The deaths from HEART DISEASES numbered 21, equal to a rate of 1·7 per 1000 of population, against 0·916 in 1899.

For comparison I place side by side the Vital Statistics of this District, the County of Durham, and the whole of England and Wales.

Per 1000 of Population.				Per 1000 Births.
	Birth rate.	Death rate.	Zymotic Diseases	Infantile Mortality.
Schildon U. District	28·8	15·3	1·47	155
County of Durham	35·0	18·6	1·72	167
England & Wales	28·9	18·3	2·0	154

It will thus be seen that our general and Zymotic Death-rates are very satisfactory, the former being 3·3 less than the County rate, and 3 less than that of England and Wales ; and the latter 0·25 below the County and 0·53 below that of England and Wales. The Infantile

mortality per 1000 Births registered is 12 below the County and 1 above the whole of England and Wales.

The following Tables disclose various points of interest.

1.—The mortality in the District from all causes at ages specified for year ended December 31st, 1900.

At all ages.	Under 1 year	BETWEEN							over 90
		1 & 5	5 & 15	15 & 25	25 & 65	65 & 70	70 & 80	80 & 90	
188	55	28	10	9	54	10	17	4	1

2.—Cases of Infectious Diseases notified in

	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlatina ...	88	27	14	20	74	14	47	63
Diphtheria ...	4	6	4	—	3	2	10	16
Croup ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
Enteric Fever...	18	44	36	34	17	39	46	196
Puerperal Fever	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	2
Erysipelas ...	9	8	13	14	11	12	13	25
Totals ...	119	87	67	68	105	69	117	305

3.—Population, Birth Rate, Death Rate, &c., for 2 Series of 10 years each.

1st Series. 1881-1890.

Year	Popu- lation	Births	Rate per 1000 popula- tion	Deaths under 1 year	Rate per 1000 Births register'd	Zymotic Diseases	Rate per 1000 popula- tion	Deaths at all ages	Rate per 1000 popula- tion
1881	8,703	381	43.7	47	123	56	6.43	170	19.5
1882	8,791	369	41.9	51	138	57	6.48	200	22.7
1883	8,879	368	41.4	58	158	27	3.00	182	20.5
1884	8,967	387	43.2	59	152	23	2.56	169	17.9
1885	9,055	356	39.3	53	149	17	1.87	175	19.3
1886	9,143	335	36.6	41	122	20	2.19	151	16.5
1887	9,232	367	39.7	60	163	15	1.62	167	18.1
1888	9,320	337	36.1	44	130	6	0.65	160	17.2
1889	9,408	359	38.2	71	198	36	3.83	193	20.5
1890	9,496	326	34.3	56	170	27	2.79	177	18.7
Averages for 10 yrs	9,099.4	358.5	39.4	54	150	28.4	3.14	174.4	19.0

2nd Series. 1891-1900.

Year	Popula- tion	Births	Rate per 1000 popula- tion	Deaths under 1 year	Rate per 1000 Births register'd	Zymotic Diseases	Rate per 1000 popula- tion	Deaths at all ages	Rate per 1000 popula- tion
1891	9,584	412	42.9	70	169	27	2.81	227	23.6
1892	9,702	371	38.2	51	137	10	1.03	162	16.6
1893	9,795	355	36.2	85	239	82	8.57	253	25.8
1894	9,890	342	34.5	49	143	7	0.70	145	14.6
1895	9,986	393	39.3	77	195	31	3.10	195	19.5
1896	10,082	326	32.3	43	131	19	1.88	160	15.8
1897	10,600	350	33.0	56	160	15	1.41	176	16.6
1898	11,325	356	31.4	80	224	33	2.91	190	16.7
1899	12,000	383	31.9	70	182	26	2.16	199	16.5
1900	12,250	353	28.8	55	155	18	1.46	188	15.3
Averages for 10 yrs	10,521.4	364	34.8	63.6	173.5	27	2.62	189.5	18.1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SMALL POX.

No cases notified. Cases, however, were reported at Hartlepool, Shields, Sunderland and at other places ; and I must remind you that we have no means of dealing with the disease if it should be imported, which is not at all improbable, seeing that this is an important Railway centre.

SCARLET FEVER.

88 cases were notified. For the greater part of the year this disease was excessively prevalent in most of the populous districts of the County.

For the most part the disease was of mild type in this District, and only 2 cases ended fatally.

I have reason to believe that some of the earliest cases were so mild that they were not recognised and this circumstance had much to do with the spread of the disease.

But even when it is recognised, there is a vast amount of carelessness on the part of parents, who not only decline to allow their children to be removed to the Hospital, but also neglect to avail themselves of such isolation as they can command and frequently allow their neighbours to visit infected houses. By your instruction the leaflet appended to this report was left at every known infected house ; pointing out the risk of spreading the disease, the danger to the patient, the penalties incurred, and the importance of immediate removal to the Hospital—but I am sorry to say it does not appear to have produced any good result.

There is, doubtless, a very great and deeply rooted objection on the part of the public to allow their friends to be removed to the Hospital, but as time goes on, this will become less marked, and they will avail themselves of the benefit of this Institution. In the meantime, however, when a case occurs in a house where there is no reasonable accommodation for isolating the patient, I think the Council should issue definite instructions to the Surveyor to resort to the necessary legal measures to enforce removal.

16 cases were removed to the Hospital.

DIPHThERIA.

Four cases were reported, with one death. One case was sent to the Hospital.

ENTERIC FEVER.

18 cases were notified, with two deaths.

Ten cases were removed to the Hospital.

The cases were distributed as follows :—

OLD SHILDON. (1)		EAST THICKLEY (10)	
Auckland Terrace	1 case	Strand Street	1 case
		Mechanic Street	1 „
NEW SHILDON (3)		Railway Terrace	1 „
Crozier Terrace	1 case	Victoria Street	1 „
Magdala „	1 „	South Street	2 „
Simpson Street	1 „	Scott Street	1 „
CHAPEL ROW (4)		Bouch Street	1 „
Church Street	1 case	Kilburn Street	2 „
Dent Street	3 cases		

The patient in Old Shildon was struck down on the second day after his arrival from Liverpool.

Nothing insanitary was found in or about the houses where the disease showed itself in Chapel Row—

IN NEW SHILDON.—No Sanitary defects were discovered in or about the houses here, but the patient in Crozier Terrace had been visiting a house at Witton Park where his wife was nursing a case.

IN EAST THICKLEY.—Nothing insanitary found in Strand Street, Railway Terrace or Victoria Street; in Mechanics' Street the house had no through ventilation. The remaining 6 cases occurred in New Streets off Redworth Road. In South Street, in one case the only discoverable insanitary condition was a foul Midden, and the second case in this street occurred in a house where there were two cases last year. This family appears to be peculiarly susceptible to the disease, several members of it having been attacked by it and some having died in recent years, while residing in another part of the district. In Scott Street, Bouch Street and Kilburn Street no sanitary defect was found; but a case occurred in the highest house in Bouch Street, and one in each of the houses at the top of Kilburn Street where the pressure of drain gases would be greatest.

Ventilating Shafts should be carried up at these points.

There was no reason to suspect the Water or Milk supply in any case as responsible for the outbreak.

MEASLES.

A few cases were met with but none ended fatally.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

A considerable number of cases were observed and 3 had a fatal termination.

DIARRHŒA AND DYSENTERY.

These diseases were tolerably prevalent and were fatal in 12 cases. The chief causes were insanitary environment and bad feeding. The circular, which I append hereto, on the feeding and management of children, has been very freely distributed, but I fear with no very decided results, as it is no uncommon thing to find children taking their food through filthy tubes out of dirty bottles.

INFLUENZA.

Was directly responsible for 6 deaths. In the first quarter of the year a very severe epidemic of this disease visited us.

It became so widespread in February that it was thought advisable to close the Schools and this proceeding was followed immediately by a very marked decline in the number of cases.

There is no doubt in my mind that the prevalence of this disease contributed largely to the increase in the number of deaths from acute affections of the respiratory organs.

GENERAL SANITATION.

I have made frequent inspections of the district and on many occasions have been accompanied by the Surveyor.

At the north end of Lilburn Street, a very insanitary yard has been cemented, new drains put in and gulleys fixed, and two new Ash Closets and a dry Ashpit have been erected to replace a foul privy midden which was in close proximity to one of the dwelling houses.

IN WEST STREET—from No. 1 to 11—new drains have been laid and proper gulley traps fixed.

IN MADDISON STREET a large filthy privy midden has been removed and 6 new ash closets erected instead.

IN PRINCES STREET the main drain was found to have been laid in a very imperfect way, and a new drain has been put in with spun-yarn and cement joints.

IN GARBUTT STREET, a new main drain for 18 houses has been put in in place of a badly-constructed and defective old one.

IN BACK STATION AND VICTORIA STREETS all the house drains were examined and tested previous to making and paving the Street.

Eight of these were merely field pipes, and had no connection with the Sewers, but were discharging into the surrounding soil, which was saturated with filth.

A new drain was laid in each case.

IN RICHMOND'S YARD there were two very foul privy middens quite close to some of the cottages, and two W.C's., three Ash Closets and two dry Ash-pits have been substituted.

IN RAILWAY TERRACE the sanitary conditions at the Workmen's Club were very bad,—the Kitchen drain being in direct communication with the drain. The two W.C's. were of old type and in a filthy unworkable state. The drainage was also very bad. A new W.C. was erected, new drains laid, and other sanitary defects rectified.

Legal proceedings were taken in this case.

IN AUCKLAND TERRACE, (No. 20 to 30,) part of large open yard cemented, and proper Gulley Traps fixed to drains. Three privy middens were pulled down and six Ash-Closets erected.

IN CO-OPERATIVE STREET, a badly laid sewer which was constantly giving trouble, was relaid and manholes built.

IN BACK FOUNDRY STREET a badly laid inefficient sewer was relaid.

Princes Street (front), Back Station and Victoria Street, and Back Victoria and Soho Street have all been put in order.

Together with several members of the Council and the Surveyor—I visited Sutton in Surrey and inspected the Sewage Works there. Appended hereto is the Report of the Committee and myself.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

I would recommend that in all New Houses the Council should insist on the Bye-law relating to the covering of the surface of the site with concrete being carried into effect in all cases.

Some of the Streets and Back Streets are still in a very deplorable condition and should be put in order with as little delay as possible, those especially requiring attention are—

IN OLD SHILDON—

Fryer Street, Garden Street, East View Terrace, Bolekow Street, and Vaughan Street.

IN CHAPEL ROW—

Back Albert Street, and the entrances to Dent Street, Jacob's Row, Quarry Top and Kelloe Row.

IN NEW SHILDON—

Greenfield Place and Smeddle Street.

The houses and surroundings in Lilburn Street, Pinkney's Row, Kelloe Row, Jacob's Row and North Terrace, which have been reported on at your request, should be attended to without delay.

The Footpath leading from Railway Gates at Shildon Lodge Colliery to New Shildon which is one of the chief Arteries between the two Shildons, and is very largely used by the public, is almost impassable and should be Asphalted as soon as possible.

The Water Supply continues to be good.

SCAVENGING.

This has been fairly well done but should be done more frequently when small Ash-closets are in use.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These were inspected and any defect rectified—one which was unsatisfactory is no longer used.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

This is now completed—and I hope in the future will be more appreciated.

Electric Supply and Refuse Destructor.

I desire to congratulate the Council on the arrangement they have made with the Northern Counties' Electricity Supply Co. in this matter. I feel sure the work when completed will be of the greatest service to this District. My only word of warning is that the Council should be thoroughly satisfied as to the Site of the Destructor in order that no nuisance shall be thereby created.

Summary of Work done in Sanitary Inspector's Department in 1900.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Notices served in consequence of—

Foul conditions in houses	...	...	12
Slaughter Houses	...	...	2
Ash-Pits and Privies	...	...	42
Water Closets	...	...	1
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	25
Defective Traps	...	...	42
No Disconnection from Sewers		...	4
Other faults	...	...	30
Pigsties	...	...	1
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	1
Other	„	...	4
			164

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Infectious Bedding destroyed	...	2
Houses disinfected	..	9
		11

I append statistical forms as required by the Local Government Board.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. FIELDEN,

M. O. H.

